

April 4, 1990

LB 531, 1141  
LR 239

LR 239 is no good. What you ought to do is work within the present Coordinating Commission and something like that we could live with. That is what they said to me at noon yesterday. This morning I go out and talk to their representative, they say they are opposed to this amendment. Something is going on there. I think Senator Warner is absolutely right. These people don't want anything to happen and Senator Warner, the dean that he is, called their bluff and said, now wait a second, since you said you wanted it, I am going to give it to you. I think we should and I don't think LR 239 has the guns or the muscle to get across on Final Reading with 30 votes. It is as simple as that. But I...that is why I like LB 1141, the Warner amendment at least puts something on the ballot to say, yes, we are going to try and do some coordination in higher education, and with that amendment, we are going to take the exact words given to us by the opponents of LR 239, saying, okay, if you don't like that, okay, you are right, you are absolutely right, we are going to use the present system. Now I am anxious to see how some of the more vocal opponents of LR 239 react to this because what are they going to say, there has not been a public hearing. Well, there was a public hearing on LR 239, and as a result of this, we have this amendment. That is what public hearings are for, to generate ideas. There was a public hearing last year on LB 531, which has a very similar membership to what Senator Warner is talking about. There has been plenty of public hearings on this bill and we all know that. And so I will be anxious to see what sort of cover people run for when their bluff is called and say, wait a second, you are right, we all agree, coordination needs to occur. The Warner amendment recognizes that this body probably is not ready to go whole hog with LR 239, but, hopefully, people will mean what they say when they say LR 239 is too much. We do want coordination. This amendment will use the present system. We give some nice fangs to that little French poodle that is guarding the bank now and do some coordination and then, hopefully, in my mind, we can go forward on making some decisions on how we want to spend money...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR MOORE: ...on higher education in this state so we can compete. And why, Senator LaVon Crosby, why? Because the students of this state I don't think presently on down the line are having the quality they always deserve. And it is because of the students that you need to do this in my opinion. We may